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MEMORANDUM FOR: James A. Cunningham, Jr.

24 October 1956

SUBJECT : Trip to Far East

1. PURPOSE: This memorandum will serve as your instructions concerning the mission to be performed on your forthcoming trip to the Far Eastern Theater. At your discretion it may be shown to [redacted] Commander FEAF and members of his staff, CINCPAC and members of his staff, COMFAIRWESPAC and witting officers on his staff, the Commander in Chief, Far Eastern Command, and the U. S. Ambassador to Japan.

2. MISSION: Your mission is to make recommendations concerning the choice of a base for Detachment C and (assuming a final determination of this matter can be made promptly) to make arrangements for the necessary modification of these facilities. You will be guided by the requirements referred to below and by the policy outlined below concerning the desired location of the base. Final determination on this matter will if possible be made prior to your return but after submission of your recommendations to this Headquarters and appropriate instructions therefrom.

3. REQUIREMENTS:

a. In general you are familiar with operational requirements. The base selected must have adequate runways, approaches and navigational aids. Generally poor terminal weather, especially frequent and strong cross winds render a proposed location unacceptable.

b. You will carry with you reasonably detailed documentation concerning facilities required on the base. It must be emphasized that a hangar capable of accommodating at the very least two, and preferably four, U-2 aircraft, together with adequate shop space therein or contiguous thereto, is an absolutely essential requirement.

USAF review(s) completed. NAVY review(s) completed. ~~TOP SECRET~~

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d. Other requirements with which you are familiar include:

(1) The possibility of installing adequate communication facilities.

(2) Possibility of maintaining good security in working areas (both shops and offices) and of maintaining security against the approach of unauthorized persons to any aircraft stored out-of-doors.

(3) The availability of adequate housekeeping support, either by USAF, Agency or other personnel.

(4) The availability or feasibility of adequate logistical support.

4. TIMING: It appears highly unlikely that base facilities can be obtained and put in a state of readiness to receive Detachment C much if any before 1 January. Accordingly, deployment is now planned to start on or about that date. A delay in the readiness of facilities until 15 January is undesirable but acceptable. Any delay beyond the end of January will not be accepted without an appeal to highest authorities, unless it is rendered completely unavoidable by the necessity of extensive rehabilitation work on the facilities.

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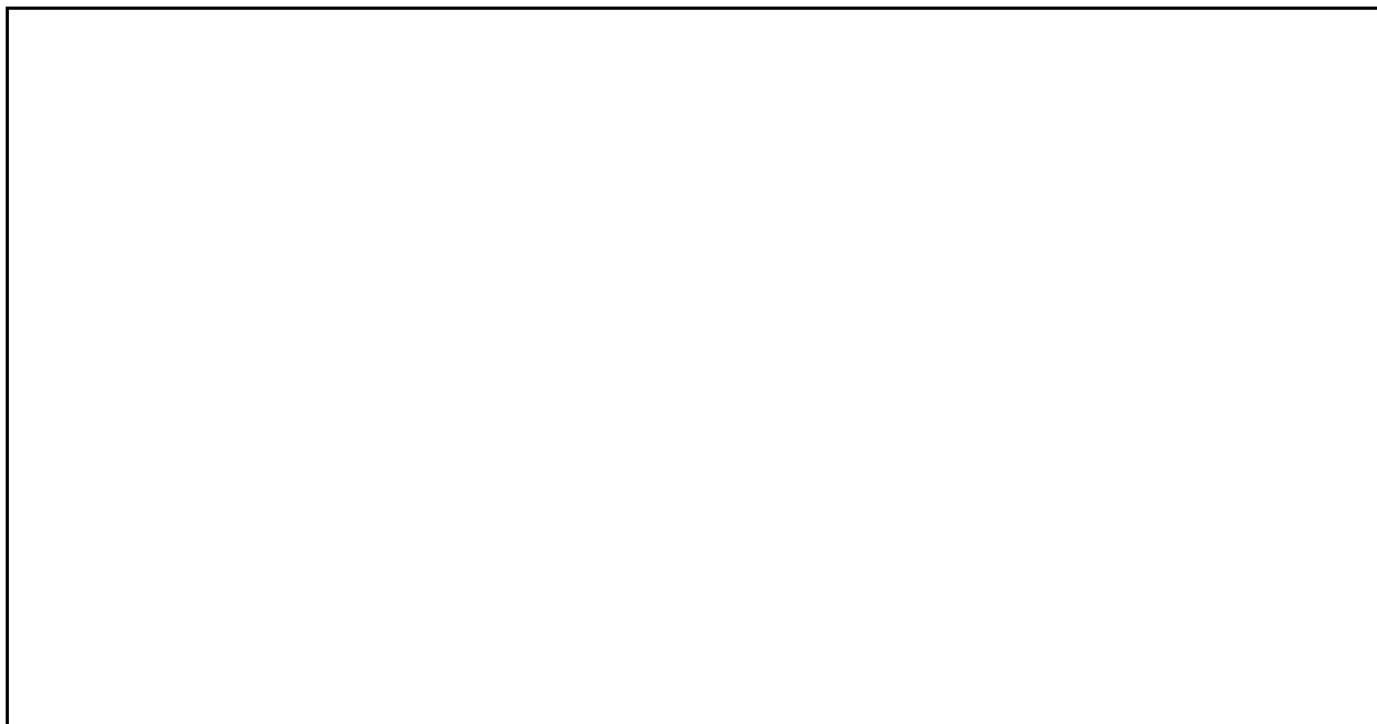
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**6. USAF AND/OR NAVY SUPPORT:** It is understood that the USAF Headquarters will direct FEAF to support AQUATONE as necessary. The Chief of Naval Operations is understood to be directing COMFAIRWESPAC to provide AQUATONE with necessary facilities at Atsugi if this can be done without serious prejudice to Naval air activities in the Theater. It is unlikely that a directive will be issued by either Service instructing its Theater Commander to make specifically named facilities available or overriding the Theater's judgment of local political conditions. Accordingly, you are within your authority in requesting that necessary facilities and other forms of support be provided in the Theater but the final choice of a base must take account of both extremely high priority requirements [ ] and the judgment of the appropriate authorities in the Theater on political and security risks.

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7. AGENCY POLICY: Based on information now at hand, the position of this Headquarters, with respect to the choice of a location, is as follows:



e. The preferences as stated in paragraphs a. and b. above should be reconsidered if their political premises (which are also stated above) are seriously in error. Accordingly, you should consider it an important part of your mission to ascertain the views of [redacted] the military authorities in the Theater concerning the political risks involved in operating from Japan and the other possible locations. In order that the political problem may be evaluated here, it is important that you learn what considerations are deemed by them to have an important bearing upon it. The shortage of space in existing facilities should be regarded by you as a factor of secondary importance since this Project carries a high enough priority to justify some interference with the modification of other activities in the Theater.

8. PROCEDURES: In light of the above, the successive steps in your investigation leading up to the choice of a location should be substantially as follows:

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b. Express to the senior military authorities in the Theater the preliminary preferences indicated above (unless modified by the additional information you obtain) and explore with them the political issues referred to above.



d. Forward by cable to this Headquarters a summary of views thus obtained together with your own recommendations, with especial emphasis on the political judgments involved.

e. This Headquarters will reply promptly to your cabled report. If it appears that a final decision can be worked out promptly with the Theater, you will be given necessary instructions and asked to complete the arrangements. If there appears to be an irreconcilable difference which can be resolved only by higher authority, you will be instructed to remain or return depending on prospects for a prompt decision.

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RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.  
Project Director

RMB:djm

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